

A Proclamation

May 28, 2008

WHEREAS, an engaged, informed and vigilant citizenry is essential to the maintenance of good government and sound environmental policies;

WHEREAS, Michigan has a strong and proud tradition of citizens who have exhibited remarkable passion, dedication and tireless effort on behalf of the natural resources of the state;

WHEREAS, these citizens have often fought against incredible odds at great personal sacrifice against powerful political and economic interests whose goals often run counter to the greater good.

WHEREAS, Carol Drake has provided just such steadfast courage and leadership in the face of a proposed takeover of public sand dunes at Jean Klock Park in Benton Harbor;

WHEREAS, Ms. Drake has been a catalyst for harnessing her community's passion in questioning and opposing the ill-advised takeover of land dedicated in perpetuity;

WHEREAS, the actions of Ms. Drake and her allies have resulted in significant victories in ongoing efforts to protect Jean Klock Park from control by a development company that would impair the natural ecology of the dunes and allow access only to those who could afford substantial greens fees;

THEREFORE, the Michigan Environmental Council is honored to bestow the Petoskey Prize for Environmental Leadership on Carol Drake this twenty-eighth of May, 2008.

Signed by:

Christopher Graham, Chairman
Lana Pollack, President